

MARTHA PAYNE: A TRUE FRIEND AND PUBLIC SERVANT

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to inform the Senate that I am losing one of my most dedicated and trusted staffers to retirement—Martha Payne of Columbia, SC. At the same time, I am happy for Martha and her family because she is going to have a whale of a time in what will be her best years ever.

Since 1960 when she started working with me in the Governor's office, Martha has stood with me through thick and thin. Within months, her competence and commitment made her indispensable. At the end of my service as Governor when Senator Olin Johnston gave me a classic lesson in politics, I returned to Charleston to practice law and Martha assumed a position as manager of our State municipal association.

Martha and I never lost contact. I relied upon her to keep me advised on happenings in State and municipal government, and as a conduit to old, and more importantly, new friendships. In 1965 when I decided to again seek election to this august body, the first person I asked to join my campaign was Martha Payne.

Martha was the glue that held a fragile and inexperienced campaign together. She brilliantly bridged the gap between past Hollings supporters and thousands of new ones who rallied to our undermanned but committed cause. The victory we achieved in 1966 and all the victories in the 29 years since have, in no small measure, been Martha's victories.

Since that victorious 1966 Senate campaign, Martha served as my office organizer. She has been an office manager and staff assistant in Columbia. Day after day, she has helped thousands of people throughout South Carolina. Her energy and dedication to serving our people, our State, and our country has made my job easier and our successes easier to accomplish.

Through the many long and difficult days which saw some seek a safer haven elsewhere, Martha never wavered. She has always been there, has been supportive, and has been a true friend.

Martha and her husband Rob first moved to Columbia from Monroe, NC, in 1950. They are the proud parents of three children—Rob Jr., a psychiatrist in Charleston Michael, a lawyer in Washington, DC; and Nancy, a teacher in Charleston—and grandparents of four. She and Rob will celebrate their 50th anniversary next May.

Mr. President, I often think of Martha as South Carolina's living Rolodex. She is a library of knowledge and information. Perhaps the only thing more impressive than the number of South Carolinians she knows is the information she knows about them—their parents, grandparents, and children. In fact, Martha Payne, more than anyone I can think of, understands the relationships that make South Carolina a big, big family.

Mr. President, we in South Carolina owe Martha Payne a huge debt of gratitude. It is a debt that I never will be able to repay. But what I can do is offer heartfelt appreciation for a job well done and my sincerest thanks for the 35 years of love, friendship, loyalty, and support. I wish her and Rob well in their years to come.

FREDDIE MAC'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to acknowledge the 25th anniversary of the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation [Freddie Mac] and recognize Freddie Mac for its outstanding contribution in making financial credit available for home ownership.

In 1970, Congress created Freddie Mac to help ensure the nationwide availability of low-cost mortgage funds to home buyers everywhere. Freddie Mac has risen to this challenge by dedicating its resources and ingenuity to making the American dream of home ownership a reality. Since 1970, Freddie Mac has purchased some \$1.2 trillion in mortgage loans, including \$16 billion in Missouri, enabling some 16 million American families to own their own home. By purchasing mortgage loans from lenders, packaging loans into securities, and selling the securities to investors, Freddie Mac has been a primary participant in developing a secondary mortgage market that provides a continuous flow of funds to finance home ownership.

I emphasize that Freddie Mac has made a real commitment and continuing contribution to the mortgage finance system. Part of this commitment is Freddie Mac's effort to encourage fair lending and eliminate barriers to home ownership. Freddie Mac also has made a commitment to revitalizing neighborhoods by emphasizing community development mortgage lending for owner-occupied or rental housing which is affordable to low-, moderate-, and middle-income families. The shared commitment of Freddie Mac and its nonprofit partners have produced programs that are helping to revitalize neighborhoods throughout America.

The contribution of Freddie Mac to home ownership in America cannot be minimized. Congratulations to Freddie Mac on its 25th anniversary. •

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT

• Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, on July 28, Senator HARRY REID and I introduced the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 Amendment Act of 1995.

In 1993, during consideration of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, Senator REID and I introduced our amendment to establish a different legal standard for judicial review of religious freedom cases brought by prison inmates. This bill proposes again to es-

tablish an exception for prisoner-generated free-exercise lawsuits challenging prison regulations.

I supported and voted for the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993. However, I continue to be very concerned about the act's impact on increasing prisoner lawsuits.

This bill will retain the current U.S. Supreme Court standard for the evaluation of prison actions affecting religious activities. That standard focuses on whether or not prison officials, in light of security, discipline, and safety concerns, have acted reasonably in the measures they have taken which may impact religious activities.

In the past, the U.S. Supreme Court has required courts to give great deference to decisions made by prison officials regarding how their prisons are administered. Without such a prison exception provision in the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, it is not clear such deference will continue. Many attorneys general, including Nevada's attorney general, Frankie Sue Del Papa, support this prison exception.

Without this provision, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act has overturned judicial review standards for prison settings that have existed for approximately 45 years. The result is not only increased numbers of prisoner-generated lawsuits. Courts now are also able to second-guess prison administrators' decisionmaking by looking beyond concerns for security and conditions of confinement in the prisons. For example, the Santeria religion case upholding religious ritual animal sacrifices could create immense problems should such sacrifices be upheld in a prison setting.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act, as enacted, would require prison officials to justify any actions involving prisoners' exercise of their religious belief by showing there was a compelling governmental interest for the action, and that any action taken was the least restrictive alternative in burdening the prisoner's exercise of religion.

Nevada's attorney general, Frankie Sue Del Papa, recently cited her top-10 frivolous prison lawsuits. Among the top 10 are two religious freedom claims. One inmate claimed the prison chaplain wrongly denied a marriage ceremony between the male inmate and his male friend. Another inmate claimed the prison rule prohibiting inmates from receiving stamps in the mail violated his right as an indigent to engage in the Universal Life Church practice of writing letters to others.

As a former attorney general, I am well aware of the amount of prisoner-generated litigation that engulfs attorney general offices across this Nation. Oftentimes amounting to purely frivolous claims, these prisoner lawsuits tie up our already stretched State and Federal legal resources.